Non-Procurement of Ba.jra at Minimum Support Price

2638. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India does not procure Bajra at Minimum Support Price (MSP);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the reasons for fixing the minimum support price for Bajra when Government do not have any willingness to ensure its MSP to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADH AN) : (a) and (b) The procurement of Bajra and other coarse grains is being done by the State Governments and their agencies. The Food Corporation of India is procuring Bajra in Rajasthan, along with the State Government and its agencies, as a special measure, due to bumper arrivals. As on 7-12-2001, a quantity of 26029 tonnes of Bajra has already been procured from the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan during the current Kharif Marketing Season.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

Stowage capacity for Paddy Crop

2639. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDD Y: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to sfate:

(a) whether Government have made any arrangements for adequate godown capacity before the paddy crop come in market in next few months;

(b) whether Government have streamlined its machinery for the procurement and purchase of paddy from farmers so that they are not forced for panic sale; and

(c) the other details in this regard?